Agreement with Government of Kuwait on operation of airlines

313. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have executed an agreement with Government of Kuwait with respect to the flights to be operated by the airlines of the two countries;

(b) whether there was any dispute on the matter, recently;

(c) whether Government of Kuwait had warned that they would not allow Indian Airlines Companies to land in Kuwait from July, Ist;

(d) whether the dispute has been resolved; and

(e) if so, the details of the new arrangements agreed upon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The new agreement reached between India and Kuwait during the bilateral air services talks held on 28-30 June, 2007, *inter-alia*, provides that the capacity entitlements for each side shall be enhanced from 8320 to 12000 seats/week. The Kuwaiti designated airlines have been granted Hyderabad and Kolkata as additional points of call with immediate effect and Bangalore with effect from Winter 2008-09 apart from the existing Mumbai, Delhi, Trivandrum, Chennai and Ahmedabad.

Civil aviation projects

†314. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of civil aviation projects started during the previous Five Year Plan;

(b) the progress made till date under these projects;

(c) whether these projects are running in time;

(d) if so, the amount spent on these projects; and

(e) the amount sanctioned for these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Unfair trade practices by IIPM

315. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received complaints against Indian Institute of Planning and Management (IIPM), New Delhi for providing free laptops and foreign trips to students seeking MBA/BBA courses;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

(c) whether offering such freebies to poor students for seeking admission in unapproved courses amounts to unfair trade practices under the MRTP Act; and

(d) if so, what action Government have taken against the IIPM?

THE MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Based on the complaints received and *suo-motu* on the basis of the information given on the website of Indian Institute of Planning and Management (IIPM) offering free international study tours and free laptops to students of MBA/ BBA, the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices (MRTP) Commission has initiated action against the IIPM. The matter has been referred to the Director General (Investigation and Registration) to investigate and file the Preliminary Investigation Report. The MRTP Commission can take cognizance of such advertisements under the provisions of MRTP Act.

All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has issued a show cause notice to the Indian Institute of Planning and Management, New Delhi and has placed the name of the Institution in the list of institutions which are running technical courses without their approval, on their web-site.

Illegal trafficking of antiquities

316. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are fully aware of the increasing illegal trafficking in antiquities in the country;

(b) if so, the number of cases reported during the last two years, year-wise;

(c) the corrective steps being taken to combat trafficking in antiquities;

(d) whether the National Mission in Monuments and Antiquities will be able to combat the trafficking in antiquities; and

(e) if so, to what extent?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) The available data does not indicate increasing illegal trafficking in antiquities. The number of cases of antiquity thefts reported during the last two years is given in the enclosed Statement (*See* below).

(c) Under the Antiquities and Art Treasures Act, 1972, provisions exist for regulating the trade in antiquities and for registering specific categories of antiquities.

India is also a signatory to the 1970 UNESCO Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Trafficking in Cultural Property.

The provision for security at museums and protected monuments has been augmented by deploying State Police, Private Security Guards and also CISF in selected places. Strict vigil is also maintained by the Customs Department at all airports and seaports and other law enforcing agencies like the CBI, DRI and the State Police.